The SECOND PART of THOMAS HICKATHRIFT.

Newcastle: Printed by and for M. Angus & Son, Side,
Where is always kept on Sale, a choice and extensive Assortment of Histories, Songs, Children's Story Books, School Books, &c. &c.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE

HISTORY

OF

Thomas Hickathrift.

CHAP. I.

How Thomas Hickathrift and a Tinker conquered and overcame ten thousand rebellious Subjects.

IN and about the isle of Ely, many disaffected persons, to the number of ten thousand and upwards, drew themselves together in a body, pretending to ancient rights and liberties, insomuch that all the gentry and civil magistrates of the country were in great danger; at which time the sher-

riff by night, privately got to the house of Thomas Hickathrift, as a security in so iminent a time of danger: where before Thomas Hickathrift, he laid open this villainous intent of this headstrong, giddy brained multitude: Mr Sheriff, quoth Tom, what service my brother (meaning the Tinker) and I can perform shall not be wanting. This said, the next morning by break of day, with trusty clubs they both went forth, desiring the sheriff to be their guide, in conducting them to the place of the rebels' rendezvous: when they came there, Tom and the Tinker marched boldly up to the head of the multitude, where Tom demanded of them the reason why they did disturb the government? To which they answered with a loud cry: "Our will is our law, and by that alone we will always be governed." "Nay," quoth Tom, "if it be so, these trusty clubs are our weapons, and by them you shall be chastised." Which words were no sooner out of his mouth, but the Tinker and he threw themselves both together, into the midst of all the throng; where, with their clubs, they

beat the multitude, trampled them under their feet; every blow which they ſtruck laid twenty or thirty ſprawling before them.

Nay, remarkable it was, the Tinker ſtruck a tall man juſt upon the nape of the neck with that force, that his head flew off, and was carried violently fourteen feet from him, where it knocked down one of the ring-leaders: Tom, on the other hand, was ſtill preſſing forward, till by an unfortunate blow he broke his club; yet he was not in the leaſt diſmay'd, for he preſently ſeized upon a luſty, ſtout rawboned miller, and made uſe of him for a weapon, till at length he cleared the field, ſo that there was not one found that dared to lift up his hand againſt them, having run into holes and corners to hide themſelves: ſhortly after ſome of them were taken, and their heads ſtuck upon poles for a public example; the reſt were pardoned at the humble requeſt of Thomas Hickathrift and the Tinker.

CHAP. II.

How Thomas Hickathrift and the Tinker were sent for to court, and their kind entertainment there, &c.

THE king being truly informed of the faithful service performed by these his loving subjects, Thomas Hickathrift and the Tinker, he was pleased to send for them to his palace, where a royal banquet was prepared for their entertainment, most of the nobility being present, "These are my trusty and well beloved subjects, men of approved courage and valour; these are the men that overcame and conquered ten thousand men that were got together to disturb the peace of the realm; according to the character that had been given to Thomas Hicka-

thrift and Henry Nonſuch, perſons here preſent, they cannot be matched in any other kingdom in the world; were it poſſible to have an army of twenty thouſand ſuch men, I could venture to act the part of Alexander the Great over again: Yet, in the mean while, as a proof of my royal favour, kneel down and receive the ancient order of knighthood Mr Hickathrift. Which was inſtantly performed. And as for Henry Nonſuch, I will ſettle upon him, as a reward for his good ſervices, the ſum of forty pounds a year during his life." Which ſaid, the king withdrew, and Sir Thomas Hickathrift and Henry Nonſuch, the Tinker, returned home, attended by many perſons of quality, ſome miles from the court. But to the great grief of Sir Thomas, at his return from court, he found his aged mother drawing to an end, who in a very few days after died, and was buried in the iſle of Ely.

CHAP. III.

How Tom after his old Mother's death, went a wooing: and how he ſerved a young gallant, who affronted him before his love, &c.

TOM's mother being dead, and he left all alone in a large and ſpacious houſe, he thought it ſtrange and uncouth, therefore he began to conſider with himſelf, that it might not be amiſs to ſeek out a wife; and then hearing of a young rich widow, not far from Cambridge, to her he went, and made his addreſſes; and the firſt coming ſhe ſeemed to ſhew him very much favour and countenance; but between that and his ſecond coming ſhe had given ſome entertainment to a more genteel and airy ſpark, who happened likewiſe to come in when honeſt Tom was making his ſecond viſit; he looked wiſhfully on Tom, and he ſtared as ſincerely at him again; but at length the young ſpark begun with abuſive language to affront Tom, tell-

ing him, he was a great lubbertly whelp; adding, that not ſuch a one as he ſhould pretend to make love to a young lady, that was but t'other day a brewer's ſervant. Scoundrel, quoth Tom, better words would become you, and if you don't inſtantly mend your manners, you ſhall not fail to feel my ſharp correction. At which the young ſpark challenged him forth into the back-yard immediately; for, as he ſaid he did not queſtion but to make a fool of Tom in a trice. Into the yard they both walked together, the young ſpark with a naked ſword, and Tom with neither ſtick or ſtaff in his hand: What, ſays the ſpark, have you nothing to defend yourſelf? Well, I ſhall the ſooner diſpatch you. Which ſaid, he ran furiouſly forward making a paſs at Tom, which he put by, and then wheeling round to his backſide, Tom gave him a ſwinging kick on the breech, which ſent the ſpark like a crow up into the air, from whence he fell upon the ridge of a thatch'd houſe, and then came down into a large fiſh pond, where he had been certainly drown'd, if it had not been for a ſhep-

herd, who was walking that way, and seeing him float upon the water, dragged him out with his hook, and home he returned, like a drowned rat; whilst Tom enjoyed the kind embraces of his lady, who, because Tom had come off conqueror, looked upon him as a valiant man, and a man of courage.

CHAP. III.

How Tom served two of the king's Troopers, whom this young spark had hired to beset him, &c.

THIS young gallant being tormented in his mind, to think how Tom had conquered and ashamed him before his fair mistress, he was now resolved for a speedy revenge; and knowing that he was not able to cope with a man of Tom's strength and activity, he therefore hired two lusty troopers, well mounted, to lie in ambush in a thicket, which Tom was to pass through from his home to the young lady, and accordingly they attempted to set upon

him. "How now," quoth Tom, "Rascals what would you be at? Are you indeed weary of the world, that you so unadvisedly set upon one who is able to crush you to a cucumber?" The troopers laughing at him, said, "That they were not to be daunted at high words." Quoth Tom, "I will come to action," and ran directly between those armed troopers, catching them under his arms, horses and men with as much ease as if they had been but a couple of baker's badkins, steering his course hastily with them towards his own home; and as he passed through a meadow, in which there were many hay-makers at work, the poor distressed troopers cried out, "Stop him, stop him, he runs away with two of the king's troopers." The hay-makers laughed heartily to see how Tom hugged them along, ever and anon upbraiding them for their baseness; declaring that he would make minced meat of them to feed the crows about his house and habitation. This was such a dreadful lecture to them, that the poor rogues begged that he

would be merciful, ſpare their lives, and they would diſcover the whole plot, and who was the perſon that employed them; which accordingly they did, and by that means they gained favour in the ſight of Tom who pardoned them, upon promiſe that they never would be concerned in ſuch a villainous and baſe action for the time to come.

CHAP. V.

How Tom going to be married, was beſet by twenty one ruffians in armour, and of the havock which he made among them.

IN regard Tom had been hindered by theſe troopers, he delayed his viſit to his lady and love till the next day: and then coming to her, he gave her a full account of what happened: She was pleaſed at this wonderful relation, and received him with joy and ſatisfaction, knowing it was ſafe for a woman, to marry with a man who was able to

defend her againſt all aſſaults whatſoever, and ſuch a one ſhe found Thomas Hickathrift to be. The day of marriage was accordingly appointed, and their friends invited, yet ſecret malice, which is never ſatisfied with revenge, had like to have prevented the ſolemnity; for having three miles to go to church, the aforeſaid gentleman had provided a ſecond time ruffians in armour, to the number of twenty-one, he himſelf being then preſent, either to deſtroy the life of Tom or put them into a ſtrange conſternation: Howbeit thus it happened: In a loneſome place they boulted out upon them, making their firſt aſſault upon poor Tom, and with a ſpear gave him a ſlight wound, at which his love and the reſt of the woman ſhrieked and cried like perſons out of their wits. Tom endeavoured all that he could to pacify them, ſaying, "Stand you ſtill, and I will ſhew you pleaſant ſport." And then he catched a back-ſword from the ſide of a gentleman in his own company, with which he ſo bravely defended himſelf, that at every ſtroke he cut off a joint; loath he was to touch

the life of any, but aiming at their legs and arms, he lopped them off so fast that in less than a quarter of an hour there was not one in the company but what had lost a limb, the grass being stained with their purple gore, and the ground bestrewed with legs and arms as it is with tiles from the tops of houses after a dreadful storm. His love and the rest of the company standing all the time as joyful spectators, laughing one upon another, saying, What a company of cripples he had made, as it were in the twinkling of an eye! Yes, quoth Tom, I believe that for every drop of blood which I have lost, I have made the rascals pay me a limb as a just tribute. This done, he stept to a farmer's house hard by, and hired there a servant, giving him twenty shillings to carry these cripples to their respective habitations, in his dung cart; and then he hastened with his love to the church, where they were married, and then made heartily merry with their friends after this fierce and dreadful encounter.

CHAP. VI.

How Tom made a feaſt to all the poor widows in the adjacent towns, and how he ſerved an old woman that ſtole a ſilver cup at the ſame time.

NOW Tom being married he made a plentiful feaſt, to which he invited all the poor widows in four or five pariſhes, for the ſake of his poor old mother which he had lately buried. This feaſt was kept in his own houſe, with all manner of varieties that the country could afford, for the ſpace of four days, in honour, likewiſe of the four victories which he lately obtained.

Now when the time of feaſting was ended, a ſilver cup was miſſing; and it being aſked after, they every one denied they knew any thing of it: at length it was agreed that they ſhould ſtand the ſearch, which they did, and the cup was found upon a certain old woman, named *Strumbolo*; then were all the reſt in a rage, ſome were for chopping the old woman in pieces for

her ingratitude to such a generous soul as Sir Thomas Hickathrift; but he entreated them all to be quiet, saying, "They should not murder a poor old woman, for he should appoint a punishment for her himself." Which was this: He bored a hole through her nose, and tied a string thereto, then tied her hands behind her back, and ordered her to be stript naked, commanding the rest of the old women to stick a candle in her fundament, and then lead her by the nose through all the streets and lanes of the town of Cambridge, which comical sight caused a general laughter. This done, she had her clothes restored and acquitted.

CHAP. VII.

How Sir Thomas Hickathrift and his lady were sent for to court, and what happened.

THE tidings of Tom's wedding was soon noised at court, insomuch that the king gave them a royal

invitation, to the end that he might have a view of his lady: accordingly they went, where they were all received with all the demonſtration of public joy and ſtately triumph. And now whilſt they were in the midſt of all their mirth, a dreadful cry was heard to approach the court, and when the king enquired into the meaning of it: it proved to be the poor inhabitants of the county of Kent, who were come thither to complain of a dreadful giant that was landed in one of the iſlands; and bringing with him a great number of bears and young lions; likewiſe a dreadful dragon, on which he rode, which monſter and ravenous beaſts, had frightened all the inhabitants out of the iſland: moreover they ſaid, if ſpeedy courſe was not taken to ſuppreſs them in time, they might over-run the whole kingdom. The king hearing this relation, was a little ſurprized, yet he perſuaded them to return home, and make the beſt they could for themſelves at preſent, aſſuring them he would not forget them, and ſo they parted.

CHAP. VIII.

How Thomas Hickathrift was made governor of the iſland of the Eaſt Angles, now called Thanet, and the wonderful atchievements he performed there.

THE king hearing the aforeſaid dreadful tidings, immediately ſat in counſel to conſider what was beſt to be done for the overcoming this monſtrous giant, and ſavage bears and lions, that with him had invaded his princely territories. At length it was agreed upon, that Thomas Hickathrift was the moſt likely man in the whole kingdom, for undertaking ſuch an enterprize; he was not only a fortunate man, of great ſtrength, but alſo a true and truſty ſubject, one that was always ready to do his king and country ſervice, for which reaſon it was thought neceſſary to make him governor of the aforeſaid iſland, which place of truſt and honour he received, and went down with his wife and family to take poſſeſſion of the ſame, attended with an hundred

knights and gentlemen, which conducted him to the entrance of the iſland in which he was to govern. A caſtle in thoſe days there was, in which he was to take up his head quarters, and the ſame being ſituated at that advantage, that he might view the iſland at ſeveral miles upon occaſion; the knights and gentlemen at laſt taking their leave, wiſhed him all happy ſucceſs and proſperity. Many days he had not been there, before it was his fortune to behold this monſtrous giant; for thus it was: Sir Thomas Hickathrift looking out of a lofty window, eſpied this monſtrous giant, mounted upon a dreadful dragon, beating upon his ſhoulder a club of iron: having but one eye, which was placed in the middle of his forehead, and larger then a barber's baſon, and ſeemed to appear like a flaming fire; his viſage was grim and tawny, his back and ſhoulders like ſnakes of a prodigious length; the briſtles of his beard like ruſty wire; and lifting up his glaring eye, he happened to diſcover Sir Thomas Hickathrift; who

was looking upon him from one of the windows of the caſtle. The giant then began to knit his brows, and breathe out threatening words to the governor, who indeed was a little ſurprized at the approach of ſo monſtrous a brute. The giant finding that Tom did not make much haſte down to meet him, alighted from the dragon, and chained him to an oak tree, then marched furiouſly to the caſtle, and ſetting his broad ſhoulders againſt a corner of the ſtone walls, as if he intended to overthrow the whole building at once, which Tom perceiving, ſaid, "Is this the game you would be at? Faith, I ſhall ſpoil your ſport, for I have a delicate tool to pick your teeth withal." Then taking his two handed ſword of ten feet long, down he went, and flinging open the gates, and there he found the giant, who ſlipping down in his thruſting, was fallen, where he lay and could not help himſelf. "What," quoth Tom, "do you come here to take up your lodging? This is not to be ſuffered:" And with that he run his broad ſword in between the giants brawny buttocks, and out

at his belly, which made the monſtrous brute give ſuch a dreadful groan, that it made the neighbouring trees to tremble: and then pulling it out again, at ſix or ſeven blows he ſeparated his head from his trunk; which head, when it was off, ſeemed like the root of a mighty oak. Then turning to the dragon, which was all the while chained, with no more ado, but four blows he cut off its head alſo. This fortunate adventure being over; he ſent immediately for a team of horſes, and a country waggon which he loaded with theſe two heads, and then ſummoned all the conſtables of the country for a guard, and ſent theſe monſtrous heads to the court, with a promiſe to his majeſty, that he would rid the whole iſland of the bears and lions before he left it.

CHAP. IX.

How the Tinker hearing of Tom's fame, went down to be partner in the enterprize; and how he was unfortunately ſlain by a lion.

TOM's victories ran ſo loud, that they reached the ears of his old acquaintance the Tinker, who, deſirous of honour, reſolved to go down and viſit Tom in his government; when coming there, he met with both kind and loving entertainment; for they were joyful to ſee one another. Now after two or three days enjoyment of one another's company, Tom told the Tinker that he muſt needs go forth in ſearch after the wild bears and lions, in order to root them out of the iſland. Well, quoth the Tinker, "I would gladly take my fortune with you, hoping that I may prove ſerviceable to you on this occaſion." Well, quoth Tom, "with all my heart, for I muſt needs acknowledge, I ſhall be right

glad of your company." This ſaid, they both went forward, Tom armed with his two handed ſword, and the Tinker with his long pike-ſtaff. Now after they had travelled about four or five hours, it was their fortune to light on a whole knot of wild beaſts together, being in number fourteen, of which ſix were bears, and the other eight young lions; when they faſtened their eyes upon Tom and the Tinker, thoſe ravenous beaſts began to roar and run furiouſly, as if they would have devoured them at a mouthful; but Tom and the Tinker ſtood ſide by ſide, with their backs againſt an oak, and as the lions and bears came within their reach, Tom clove their heads aſunder, till they were all deſtroyed, ſaving one lion, who ſeeing the reſt of his fellows ſlain, was endeavouring to make his eſcape; now the Tinker being too venturous, ran haſtily after him, and having given the lion one blow, he turned upon him again, and ſeized him by the throat with that violence, that the poor tinker fell dead to the ground, Thomas Hickathrift ſeeing this, gave

the lion such a blow that ended his li
Now was his joy mingled with sorro
for though he had cleared the island
those ravenous beasts, yet his grief w
inexpressible for the loss of his friend

Home he returned to his lady, d
clared what had happened, and with
took his bed, and in less than thr
weeks died with grief for his friend.

He conquered armed men and giants too,
And did run bears and lions thro' and thro';
Affording to his native land relief,
Yet after all he died with sad grief.

FINIS.